

2. Amendments to the Claims:

A listing of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for combining ultrasonic images of the same object including the steps of:

- seeking contours representing an interface on the ultrasonic images to be combined, said search step being intended to define interest areas close to said representative contours,
- analyzing interest areas, said analysis step being intended to allocate weights to the points in said interest areas and to the points corresponding to said interest areas on the various ultrasonic images,
- constructing a combination image, a point on the combination image corresponding to a point on at least one interest area being obtained from a weighting of the corresponding points on the ultrasonic images to be combined according to the weights allocated in said analysis step.

2. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the analyzing comprises a step of evaluating similarity of the interest areas on the ultrasonic images to be combined, the weights being allocated to the various points in said interest areas and to their corresponding points according to said similarity.

3. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the analyzing comprises a step of estimating the contrast within at least two interest areas present and

similar on two images, the weights being allocated to the various points in said interest areas according to said estimated contrast.

4. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein at least two ultrasonic images to be combined have different resolutions and the analyzing comprises a step of evaluating these resolutions within at least two interest areas present and similar on two said ultrasonic images, the weights being allocated to the various points in said interest areas on said two images according to said resolutions.

5.-9. (Cancelled).